

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 28, 32 through 35, 42, and 46 through 57 are pending, with Claim 28 and 42 being independent. Claims 28, 33, 42, 46, 49, 52, and 54 through 57 have been amended.

Claims 28, 33, 34, 42, 46, 49, 50, and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,764,278 (Nagao) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,710,917 (Tompkins, et al.). Claims 32, 35, 47, 48, 51, and 53 through 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Nagao in view of Tompkins, et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,049,823 (Hwang). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 28 recites, inter alia, that the first communication means is capable of detecting whether or not another apparatus is disconnected from the first communication means, and the control unit is capable of setting the second communication means in an active state, if the first communication means detects that another apparatus is disconnected from the first communication means when the second communication means is in an inactive state.

Claim 42 recites, inter alia, detecting using the first communication means that another apparatus is disconnected from the first communication means or not, in combination with setting the second communication means in an active state, if the first communication means detects that another apparatus is disconnected from the first communication means when the second communication means is in an inactive state.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that none of Nagao, Tompkins, et al., and Hwang, even in combination, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed combinations of features as recited, inter alia,

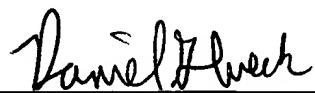
in Claims 28 and 42. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed combinations of claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 28 and 42. In this regard, Applicants respectfully traverse the statement in the Official Action that it would have been obvious to attempt to modify Nagao and Tompkins, et al. to use IEEE 1394, RS232, etc. from Hwang so as to arrive at such claimed features, as being without support.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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